

### **REMARKS**

Claim 1 has been amended to include an unintentionally omitted conjunction. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-6 and 14-94 remain pending. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

#### **Claims 1-6 and 14-94**

Applicant requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-6 and 14-94 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Application 2002/0062225 (Siperco) in view of US Patent Application 2005/0060197 (Mayaud) and US Patent Application 2005/0165626 (Karpf).

Applicant has filed simultaneously herewith a Declaration of Prior Invention under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 proving applicant's date of invention predates the earliest filing dates of Siperco and Karpf. Accordingly, Siperco and Karpf cannot be used as prior art against claims 1-6 and 14-94 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicant is not opining as to the teachings of Siperco or Karpf because such an opinion would be superfluous as the references cannot be used as prior art against the claims of the present application. Omitting a direct response to the Examiner's interpretations of the teachings disclosed in Siperco and Karpf should not be inferred to mean Applicant concurs with the Examiner's opinions or interpretations.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-6 and 14-94 as being obvious over Siperco in view of Mayaud and Karpf.

#### **Conclusion**

The claims are allowable for at least the reasons set forth herein. Applicants request that claims 1-6 and 14-94 be allowed.

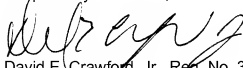
Although the prior art made of record and not relied upon may be considered pertinent to the disclosure, none of these references anticipate or

make obvious the recited invention. The fact that Applicants may not have specifically traversed any particular assertion by the Office should not be construed as indicating agreement therewith.

Applicant wishes to expedite prosecution of this application. If the Examiner deems the application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned to discuss allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment of any required fee during the entire pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David E. Crawford, Jr.', is written over the typed name.

David E. Crawford, Jr., Reg. No. 38,118  
SENNIGER POWERS LLP  
100 North Broadway, 17th Floor  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102  
(314) 231-5400

DEC/DXS/tsw